

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

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DRAFTED BY EUR/ RPM: LTCRTHOMPSON; OSD/ ISA: COL. LMICHAEL; MEM

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EUR/ RPM: RJMCGUIRE: WROMINE

PM/ ISP: NTERRELL

WH - HAKISSINGER

S/ S: DWMILLER

OSD/ ISA: AMB HILL

J-5: BGEN CHRISTENSEN (INFO)

EUR: GSSPRINGSTEEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

USDEL MC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 127286

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: SCHLESINGER DPC SPEECH

REFS: A. STATE 111387; B. BONN 8551; C. HAGUE 2694;

D. BONN 8622; E. STATE 119487

HELSINKI FOR MPT DEL

VIENNA FOR MBFR REP

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1. PRESENTATION OF SECDEF DESIGNATE SCHLESINGER AT DPC HAS STIMULATED NUMEROUS INQUIRIES BY ALLIES CONCERNING US OBJECTIVES. IN DEALING WITH THIS SUBJECT, POSTS SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING:
2. ONE PURPOSE OF MR. SCHLESINGER' S SPEECH WAS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT ALLIED SUPPORT FOR AN EFFECTIVE CONVENTIONAL OPTION IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN LIGHT OF THE STRATEGIC NUCLEAR BALANCE AND TO ENABLE THE US TO JUSTIFY MAINTENANCE OF A STRONG CONVENTIONAL US POSTURE IN EUROPE SUPPORTED BY THE US NUCLEAR DETERRENT.
3. IN OUR VIEW, A STRONG CONVENTIONAL OPTION CAN BE ACHIEVED GIVEN NATO' S POTENTIAL RESOURCES. HOWEVER, THIS WILL REQUIRE A CONTINUING PROGRAM OF FORCE IMPROVEMENTS, MORE EFFICIENT USE OF OUR RESOURCES, AND A WILLINGNESS TO MAKE DIFFICULT CHOICES.
4. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT UNLESS WE CAN USE OUR SCARCE RESOURCES EFFECTIVELY IN SUPPORT OF A BELIEVABLE AND LOGICAL MISSION WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO JUSTIFY ADEQUATELY THE LARGE CONVENTIONAL COMPONENT WE ARE CONTRIBUTING TO NATO DEFENSE. SOME OF OUR SEVEREST CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM COMES FROM THOSE WHO CLAIM NATO IS ONLY CAPABLE AND WILLING TO SUPPORT A NUCLEAR TRIPWIRE AND THAT THE CURRENT LEVEL OF US FORCES IN EUROPE IS FAR ABOVE WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR A TRIPWIRE.
5. THEREFORE, US VIEW IS THAT STRONG CONVENTIONAL POSTURE SUPPORTED BY OUR STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL NUCLEAR DETERRENT IS MILITARILY FEASIBLE, STRATEGICALLY DESIRABLE AND POLITICALLY NECESSARY.
6. WITH ALL OF THIS SAID, IT APPEARS CLEAR FROM THE REACTIONS TO WHICH WE HAVE BEEN EXPOSED THAT SOME ALLIES MAY HAVE MISSED THE POINT.
7. IN LIGHT OF CHANGED STRATEGIC, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, THE MAIN POINTS THAT MR. SCHLESINGER WISHED TO EMPHASIZE WERE: (1) WE BELIEVE THAT A SUBSTANTIAL CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE IS WITHIN OUR REACH AND THAT NATO

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ALREADY HAS A MAJOR PART OF THE CAPABILITIES REQUIRED FOR IT; (2) THE US CONTINUES TO WANT TO SEE THE NON- NUCLEAR OPTION GIVEN GREATER SUPPORT AND THE POSTURE OF THE ALLIANCE TAILORED TO STRENGTHEN THAT OPTION; (3) TO THIS END NATO MUST DECIDE ON THE LIST OF CRITICAL ITEMS NEEDED DURING THE EARLY PHASES OF THE CONFLICT AND SET OUR GOALS FOR SUCCESSIVE YEARS; (4) OUR CANDIDATES FOR THIS LIST

INCLUDE (A) AIRCRAFT SHELTERS, (B) BETTER INTEGRATION AND UTILIZATION OF AIR ASSETS, (C) MORE ANTI- TANK WEAPONS AND CLARIFYING THE PLANS AND DOCTRINE FOR THEIR USE AND (D) BUILDING BALANCED STOCKS OF WAR RESERVE MATERIALS; (5) AT THE SAME TIME WE SHOULD NOT NEGLECT OUR TACTICAL NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES, BUT SHOULD WORK TO IMPROVE DOCTRINE, REDUCE VULNERABILITIES AND ASSESS POSSIBILITIES FOR MODERNIZATION; AND (6) WITH REGARD TO BURDENSARING, WE HAVE PROPOSED THAT OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES REAFFIRM THE PRINCIPLES OF BURDENSARING AND CONSIDER HOW THEY WILL DEVELOP A MULTILATERAL PROGRAM TO COMPENSATE FOR THE ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON THE US OCCASIONED BY THE STATIONING OF OUR TROOPS IN EUROPE.

8. IT WILL BE CLEAR FROM A READING OF THE PRESENTATION AT THE DPC THAT THE US IS NOT PROPOSING A CHANGE TO BASIC NATO STRATEGY. MR. SCHLESINGER SAID: QTE LET ME UNDERSCORE AT THE OUTSET THAT THE US HAS NO DESIRE TO ALTER THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF NATO STRATEGY, NAMELY FLEXIBLE RESPONSE, FORWARD DEFENSE AND DETERRENCE BASED ON A SPECTRUM OF CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES. WE IN THE UNITED

STATES BELIEVE THAT THE CURRENT NATO STRATEGY IS SOUND AND THAT IT CONTINUES TO SERVE THE ALLIANCE WELL, AND WE BELIEVE OUR ALLIES SHARE THIS VIEW. UNQTE.

9. NOR CAN THE FOREGOING PROPOSALS LOGICALLY BE INTERPRETED AS AN ATTEMPT TO CREATE A RATIONALE FOR UNILATERAL WITHDRAWALS. TO THE CONTRARY, BOTH MR. SCHLESINGER AND SECRETARY ROGERS AT RECENT NATO MEETINGS HAVE REAFFIRMED PRESIDENT NIXON' S PLEDGE THAT: QTE IN LIGHT OF THE PRESENT STRATEGIC BALANCE AND OF SIMILAR EFFORTS BY OUR ALLIES WE WILL NOT ONLY MAINTAIN BUT IMPROVE OUR FORCES IN EUROPE AND WILL NOT REDUCE THEM
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UNLESS THERE IS RECIPROCAL ACTION BY OUR ADVERSARIES. UNQTE. MOREOVER IT WILL BE CLEAR THAT THE WHOLE POINT AND PURPOSE OF OUR PROPOSALS IS TO SUSTAIN AN ADEQUATE CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE, AND THE US CONTRIBUTION TO THAT DEFENSE.

10. NEITHER DO WE BELITTLE THE CONTRIBUTION BEING MADE BY OUR ALLIES TO NATO. ON THE CONTRARY, WE EMPHASIZE THE FACT THAT THE EUROPEANS PROVIDE THE BULK OF NATO' S CAPABILITY AND RECOGNIZE PERHAPS MORE THAN DO OUR ALLIES WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED TO DATE AS A RESULT OF TREASURE AND EFFORT INVESTED IN THE ALLIANCE.

11. TO FACILITATE NATO CONSIDERATION OF THESE ISSUES IN

TERMS OF SPECIFICS RATHER THAN PHILOSOPHY, USG PREPARED
TO CONSULT MORE FULLY WITH OUR ALLIES ON THE DATA AND
ASSUMPTIONS WHICH FORMED THE BASIS OF SCHLESINGER DPC
STATEMENT.

12. SCHLESINGER' S REMARKS AT THE JUNE 7 DPC WERE NOT
BASED ON THE STUD
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